

The 1968 Democratic National Convention precipitated major changes in the Presidential Nomination Process. Reformers hoped to create a system that was more open, more responsive, more representative and more acceptable to the public. (And they assumed these goals were compatible with each other). It is not clear, however, that they succeeded. In this essay, you will take a first look at the process, before we have had a chance to explore that process in much detail. At the end of his chapter on this process, Stephen Wayne, in *Is This Anyway To Run a Democratic Election?* lists five topics for debate. You are to write a paper that takes a position on either of the first two of these topics:

1) The changes in the major parties' presidential nominating processes have not worked and should be reversed.

OR

2) Congress should enact a law that establishes a national primary for selecting the major parties' presidential nominees.

In writing your paper, be sure to make clear what you think makes for a good or bad nomination process and address the most obvious objections that can be raised to the points you are making.

Your essay will be evaluated by the following rubric:

- 1) Discussion of what makes for an effective nomination process. 25 points.
- 2) Presentation of your perspective on the issue under debate (including the provision of evidence to support your position). 25 points

3) Coherence of the essay (particularly, but not exclusively, the link between the general discussion of the process and the particular position taken.) 25 points.

4) Quality of writing (spelling, grammar, clarity, punctuation, proper citation of sources, etc.)